Final Stop ANDROMEDA

No.13

June/July '86

TRIVIA QUESTION --

Q - Which two world famous anime series, one dealing with rocks and the other with invaders from space, ~~on~~ began October 14? And in what years did they start?

A - The FLINTSTONES (In 1960) and URUSEI YATSURA (In 1981)

CLUB INFO

The officers of the Boston Japanimation Society are:

Jonathan J. DeLano -- society's secretary and treasurer
Marianne Popa -- public relations/society's coordinator
Aaron Reed -- newsletter editor
Frank Strom -- assistant editor

* Absent from the above list is Joe Turner, who will be on his way to Japan by the time this newsletter is published. We wish you a good memorable time while ypu're there, Joe!

The BJS is the New England chapter of the Starblazers Fan Club, headed by Robert Fenelon, alias Desslok of Gamilon.

ATTENTION, READERS!!

As an organization, THE BOSTON JAPANIMATION SOCIETY DOES NOT DO ANY VIDEOTAPE DUBBING!
Some members of the BJS do dub tapes, however, they have the right to refuse to dub if they so choose.
The tape duplication rates of three dollars for one tape, five for two, or ten dollars for three tapes, are nothing more than policy rates established by the BJS, with the hope that members who dupe tapes will abide by them and not charge others for whom they are dubbing outrageous prices like $10.00 or more for one tape.
But please remember, everyone. The BJS, as an organization, does not dub tapes.
If you are looking for a particular video feature or Japanimation series on videocassette, then please place a classified ad in this newsletter. All classified ads are free, so feel free to put one in and let the readers (especially the dubbers) know you are looking for stuff.
If you've got a classified ad, send it to:

« Aaron Reed, 23 Mystic St., Brockton, MA 02402-2825 »

Send your ads in! You've got nothing save 22¢ to lose. On the other hand, you may just get the anime movies or shows you're looking for. Write today!

membership information—

Payment for new memberships and renewals, which are annually five (5) dollars in North America and ten (10) dollars elsewhere in the world, should be sent as a check or international money order made payable to JONATHAN J. DeLANO, to this adress:

≈ Jonathan J. DeLano, 14 Bournedale Rd., Boston, MA 02130 ≈

Checks and m.o.'s not made payable to Jon DeLano will be returned to you. So make sure you make it out to Jon DeLano, and not the BJS. Arigatou.

NO MEETING IN JULY DUE TO CREATION CON, BUT SEE US THERE!!!!!

Saraba, anime version URUSEI!

a review of the final anime Urusei episode!

Amaterasu

Well, all things must come to an end. And that goes for the highly successful URUSEI YATSURA, which finished its run of almost five years this past March with a special final episode.

Before going into details about this momentous TV event, it must be noted that URUSEI YATSURA creator Rumiko Takahashi is continuing the manga on which the series is based, preventing the anime producers from ending the show with Lum and Ataru going off into the sunset, never to be seen again.

Due to the situation set before the animators, it is decided to do an all-star salute, with everybody in the URUSEI YATSURAverse present, and with an oportunity for Lum to get the kiss from Darling Ataru that she's waited all this time to get.

The setting used to bring this all about is at Tomobiki High School, where the class is putting on a short play based on the legend of Japan's sun goddess, Amaterasu, during a costume party. According to the legend, Amaterasu was angered one fine day in the Abode of the Gods by her brother Susanou, who was a pain in the tusch. So, because of Susanou's annoying behaviour, Amaterasu locks herself in a cave with a stone door, so as to withold her radiant light from the world. In response to this, all the other gods, lead by the goddess of myrth named Uzume, throw a party outside, hoping Amaterasu will open a door by at least a crack. And that she does, when she hears all the merriment outside. And waiting for her to do just that is the Herculean god Tajikalao, who pries open the door upon Ama's opening it, thus returning her light to the world.

As can be expected, things don't happen according to the way they should in the Urusei universe. Before the class begins its play, the student slated to play Amaterasu bows out because of sudden feelings of illness. While an attempt is being made to select a new Amaterasu, the real one shows up, thinking a celebration is being thrown in her behalf. Anyhow, Ataru and Mendo are the first to greet their new 'star' for the play, only to end up fighting for her affection while Lum shows bad manners and makes insulting faces at her. All this leaves Amaterasu ticked off, making her want to lock herself up in a cave. Of couse, no caves exist in Tokyo, so she uses the next best thing: an inflatable cave!

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Thinking Amaterasu is simply carrying out her 'part', Ataru and the guys carry out their song and dance to lure her back out. They also getssome unexpected assistance by real Gods, including Uzume and Tajikalao, who this time pulls the plug on Amaterasu's inflatable cave, sending Ama to who knows where.

For the most part, the Amaterasu story was only a small part of the episode, about five minutes, with the rest devoted to showing off all the Urusei characters. While not a definite end, watching this story is fun, especially when it comes to seeing Lum and Ataru's kiss scene (I refuse to kiss and tell how it went), and all the neat little cameos, like those of DIRTY PAIR's Kei and Moogie, and Kyoko from MAISON IKKOKU, stuck on no doubt as a clever form of advertising.

All you URUSEI devotees, you'll love this story, as will anyone who loves whacky parties where anyone could show up. Considering URUSEI had been on for four and a half years, with a total of 195 half hours produced, it maybe some time before the show returns to TV with new episodes, if it does. Some speculate the anime version will continue with some manga tales being possibly adapted for the home video market or theatrical release. As far as the cinematic end goes, the fourth film could end up being the last, due to dropping interest in URUSEI, plus competitors in the forms of ARION (from the creator of GIANT GORG) and the FIST OF THE NORTHSTAR movie.

Well, despite everything indicating that URUSEI will never return to animation, one can take delight in the confidence expressed at the very end of the show, thru words saying they will be back, but until then.....

(* see the three above words for the meaning)

URUSEI SICKO SONGFEST

A TRANSLATION OF THE FINAL URUSEI CLOSING THEME BY TODD MARGOLIS AND AARON REED.

It's so wonderful, all right	It's so wonderful, all right
ima nara maniau	if (the time is) now, I am ready
It's so wonderful, sora ni	It's so wonderful, in the sky
habataku tori no iru aida no wa	while there are birds flapping their wings
chikyuu wa utsukushii hoshi ne	Earth is a beautiful planet, no?
kosumo ni akabu	it floats in the cosmos
tattahitori no oashisu	a solatary oasis
Good luck mamotte ageru	Good luck I will protect
Anata no sumu ai no hoshi wo	the star of love you live on
nante ekisaiting	how exciting
Good luck koko yori towa no	Good luck from here to forever
ai wo komete telepashi yo	with love telepathically
totemo ekisaitingu	very exciting

P.S.

Todd Margolis not only helped co-translate the above song, but supplied your editor with info on the legend of Amaterasu for the URUSEI article.
Thanks, Todd!

-- your Editor

** NEXT MEETING IS JUNE 14, BUT THERE'LL BE NO MEETING IN JULY BECAUSE OF CREATION, TO BE HELD JULY 12-13 AT THE CAMBRIDGE HYATT REGENCY HOTEL. LOOK FOR US THERE!

Episode 9 -- On the western fronteire style planet Plastone, the Pair must put out of commission two syndicates fighting for control of the planet's organized crime system. Acting as rival gunslingers, Kei and Yuri split up, with each infiltrating the competing crime groups as bodyguards. Their plan, to knock out both groups simultaneously.
Of course, the girls' mission is a success, except for one little accident. While destroying a precious ore mine (which would've given either group supremacy) with the use of a laser from their ship, a chain reaction is created that destroys the planet! Luckily, most people escaped, freeing the girls from receiving a charge of genocide.
By the way, the report submitted by the girls about the mishap must've been 1000 pages long from the looks of it. Whew!

Episode 10 -- The girls must insure the safety of 12-year-old whiz kid Prince Heace, who escaped some ruthless kidnappers, and whom is being escorted to his home planet Caspia, since assassins have put a target on his person.
During the course of events, a confusing battle took place between the three, some of Prince Heace's royal subjects, the assassin and the Police. In the end, all except the prince are arrested, with Kei and Yuri being blamed for kidnapping the future monarch.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE --

DIRTY PAIR EPISODE GUIDE, PART II (continued frpm prev. page)

Episode 12 -- Aw, rats! Algernon, a new type of security system in the form of a genetically mutated mouse, with heightened intelligence and the ability to speak, has run off and must be captured. But Algernon has other plans. With Chitchi, another mutated mouse whose the former's love interest, Algernon intends to conquer the universe. And with millions of rodent subjects at his command, who can stop him? The solution comes from the scientists who gave Algernon and Chitchi their heightened abilities. A chemical is developed that will turn them back into normal mice. Thechemical succeeds in turning Chitchi back to normal. As for Algernon, he made a suicide leap from an upper floor window in the WWWA building, where he intended to establish his intergalactic empire.

Episode 11 -- Poor Kei. Poor Yuri. They finally get a vacation and hope to have a good time with some boyfriends. But, wouldn't you know, all of them had previous engagements. Oh well, the girls decide then to enjoy themselves without male accompanyment. But even that's impossible! In a shopping centre, they are mistaken by an army of cops for a pair of wanted criminals, whom they eventuall run into!

(sowry for the mixup in odder, folks. - Editor)

And, if all that isn't enough, a gang of little cute kids are playing around the Lovely Angel, and end up being taken for a ride when Yuri and Kei must flee the police! They are branded kidnappers by the cops!

Well, after all this mess is settled, the girls travel off to a rustic planet, where a handsome young glamourboy had invited them to attend a party at the beginning of the show (via a short invitational letter with his picture). The girls, dressed up for what would be the highlight of their vacation, go on in to where the party is being held, only to find their boss Gurlie and a bunch of middle aged socialites waiting for them! They'd been tricked into attending a boring dinner!

When the girls showed Gurlie the photo of the gorgeous guy who invited them, Gurlie explained that the photo was one of himself taken back in his college years!

Poor Kei... Poor Yuri.....

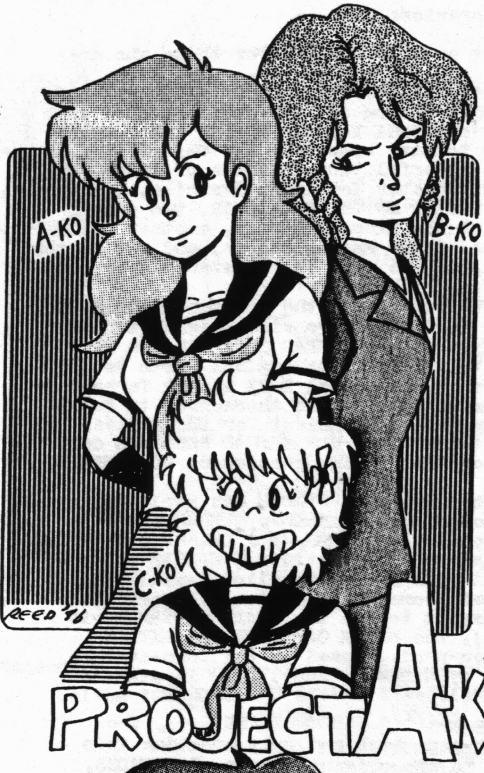
Episode 13 -- Just a moment ago, you saw how theWWWA had a problem with something small. Now, it's time for Damocles Tower, the building which the girls call home, to have its own, except on a much larger scale. In this case, giant sluglike monsters have invaded the building's sewer system and must be exterminated. After trying a couple of different methods without success, it's decided to try putting the monsters in a deep freeze. Well, it worked, no thanks to the buinding's superintendant, who bore a grudge against Kei and Yuri since episode one, and would've love to have seen them perish.

Continued Next Issue.

Pictured here to your left are Chitchi (left) and Algernon from episode 12's rat race of a story.

Anime Newsline

THE GIRLS HAVE IT ALL



The power of female anime characters to attract viewers to various shows in which they were either star or co-star (examples: CUTEY HONEY, Lynn Minmei in MACROSS, Lum in URUSEI, etc.) is attested to in the large followings existing for anime shows with females possess physical and other characteristics that attract viewers at first sight.

The same formula is also playing a role in many new theatrical and videocassette features, including two noteworthy features: PROJECT A-KO and the SUPERGAL.

Scheduled for release in June, PROJECT A-KO is an action packed adventure centering around a longstanding rivalry between action loving red head A-KO and the vengeance-seeking, grudge bearing B-KO, who schemes to kidnap A-KO's best friend: the simple minded, slightly silly C-KO.

And for those who're looking for more than just pretty girls, A-KO has all kinds of mecha in it as well, including Valkyrie-ish fighters, battle robots, etc. The movie is about 80 minutes long, with the videocassette due out in a couple of months. URUSEI YATSURA and POP CHASER animator Yuji Moriyama is the head animator on A-KO.

Meanwhile, just released is the SUPERGAL, the second in the Lumic World videocassette series (FIRETRIPPER was the first). The SUPERGAL is an intergalactic police officer possessing terrific super strength and a terrible temper, a combination that caused her to damage a couple of cosmic police cruisers, for which she must pay for the damages. This she tries to do during vacation by hiring herself out as a human taxi. Tiring of that, tho', she decides to lounge around for the rest of her vacation until she unexpectedly receives an urgent message from her sargent, who has a mission for her, a quite exciting one. Her mission: to rescue the beefcake son of a wealthy tycoon. Well, how could the boy-loving, money hungry SUPERGAL refuse?

continued next page

ANIME NEWSLINE continued from previous page --

The SUPERGAL went on sale May 2o, for those who are interested.

Meanwhile, as indicated earlier, no definite end to URUSEI has materialised yet, thus ruling out the likelyhood of such existing in this past February's URUSEI YATSURA 4: LUM THE FOREVER. Consequently, the film appears to have bombed at the box office, having been knocked out by the powerful tour-de-force of ARION, an ancient-gods epic by GIANT GORG creator Yoshikazu Yasuhiko, and the blood spilling movie versinn of FIST OF THE NORTHSTAR. Two other anime films likewise did well at the cinema, namely, another flick starring KINNIKU MAN, whose one of the Muscle things, and yet another CAPTAIN TSUBASA story. TSUBASA, by the way, is the star player on a soccer team.

In TV news, DRAGON BALL, from the creator of DR.SLUMP, debuted in late Feb. with 27.4 % of the Tokyo vid audience tuning in. Also making debuts recently were WONDERBREAD SCRAMBLE, an SF adventure combining FANTASTIC VOYAGE with the typical Earth vs. Aliens plot. In this case, aliens from planet X-23 attack Terrans as microorganisms, while our heroes miniturise themselves to battle the enemy. Osamu Tezuka came up with the concept for the series, while Mushi Pro. handled everything else. WONDERBREAD SCRAMBLE debuted April 16, along with a cute kid anime version of ULTRAMAN entitled ULTRAMAN KIDS.

In the battle robot arena, Z-GUNDAM was replaced in Feb. by ZZ GUNDAM. Rumours concerning yet another GUNDAM series running concurrently with ZZ, called O GUNDAM, are false. However, a mobile suit called O Gundam appears in the last Z GUNDAM episode, used by one of the baddies against Z-G and its pilot Kamille Bidan.

As can be expected, some US animation will make its prescenee felt. Japanese can expect to see the TRANSFORMERS movie this summer (as will Americans), the BLACK CAULDRON and LITTLE NEMO IN SLUMBERLAND, a US-TMS co-prod., based on the turn-of-the-century Sunday newspaper strip by Windsor McKay. NEMO is expected to be a simultaneous US-JAPAN release like the TRANSFORMERS movie.

Finally, the long awaited ROBOTECH ART BOOK, the first one, is out. The 200-plus-page book not only conatins info on the development of ROBOTECH in its original forms of MACROSS, SOUTHERN CROSS and MOSPEADA, but also provides details on anime shows broadcast in the US, plus fan favorites seen only on tape like GUNDAM and SPACE COBRA, along with a few words on the manga connection to many anime features. The only fault with this fine publication by Ardith Carlton and Kay Reynolds, retailing for about 15 bucks in mostcomics stores, is a lack of mention of any anime comedies possessing cult followings over here, such as Dr. SLUMP and URUSEI. Hopefully, the second ROBOTECH ART BOOK will rectify that. Anyhow, the book is highly recommended, so go and get a copy today.

And that wraps up the Anime Newsline for this ish. See ya next ish!

Video Schedule

There will be no meeting in July due to Creation Con, though expect to see us there.
In the meanwhile, expect to see these following features at the JUNE 14 meeting, to be held at U Mass Boston:

main feature -- STRANGER (a really bizarre tale)
shorts,briefs, VBDs -- DIRTY PAIR episode 18 (a parody of the Clint Eastwood film 'The Gauntlet')
GALATT (a Nippon Sunrise robot comedy)
and Dr.SLUMP (John's showing one of his favorites.)

(If you want copies of anything you see at the meetings, then place a classified ad in ANDROMEDA, and let readers know you are looking for stuff. Further info on this on page two)

They sure are, Benten! And here's a list of what she's found in back issues 10 - 12:

No.10 -- FIRETRIPPER article; ROBOTECH Who'sWho on Zentraedi; a review on GODZILLA '85.

No.11 -- DIRTY PAIR article; AREA 88 article; STARBLAZERS Quiz, etc.

No.12 -- Part one of DIRTY PAIR episode guide; article on MAISON IKKOKU, etc.

Back issues can be obtained at BJS meetings, or by sending a check or money order for 1 dollar/2 dollars in US funds (for foreign orders) each ish, to

Jonathan J. DeLano, 14 Bournedale Rd., Boston, MA 02130

Make sure your check is made payable to Jon DeLano. Thanks.

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Directions to BJS meetings—

Meetings of the Boston Japanimation Society are held at the Univeristy of Massachusetts in Boston (U.Mass Boston). To get there:

1) by train: take the T Red Line to JFK/U Mass Station. Free shuttle buses travel to UMB right up to 4:30 PM.

   by car: Take Route 3 to exit 15 to get to Morrisey Blvd., on which U Mass Boston is located, almost across the street from Ch.56 and the Boston Globe.

2) walk or drive to Wheatly Bldg. (Bldg # 010) A parking lot is right in front.

3) Take elevator to 3rd floor. Go left through doors. Turn left, walk down hall, turn right through doors to Video Room #143. You'll find a Coke machine right outside the room (great landmark, eh?).

Remember, no meeting in July, but see us this month, on the 14th.

By the way, the BJS doesn't dub videotapes. See message on page two of this newsletter.

* *

FRANK STROM IS BACK!

Yes, Frank has come back to Andromeda as assistant to Eddy Tora, your Editor. The two illusts on this page are from a set of URUSEI stationary being put together by Frank at this time. Availability of the complete set of Frank's URUSEI stationary will be announced in a future ish of this newsletter, so keep an eye out.

Last month,you folks got to read the long winded autobio of ANDROMEDA editor Aaron Reed. Now, it's society coordinator Marianne Popa's turn. Without further adue, here it is:

AUTOBIO OF MARIANNE POPA, society coordinator

NAME: Marianne D. Popa AGE: 28 (born June 22, 1958)

ADDRESS: 25 Child St., Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

OCCUPATION: Household Engineer (cook, housekeeper, childcare worker, accountant, etc., etc.)

ACTIVITIES: BJS SOCIETY COORDINATOR (basically PR for the BJS)

HOBBIES: JAPANIMATION!, Gourmet cooking (currently interested in Japanese cuisine), making new friends, and Donny Osmond.

I am a member of the Church of Latter Day Saints (the Mormons) and it is a very important part of my life. The second most important thing to me is my family. I am so happy to have found an organization like the BJS. This past February, when I attended Boskone, I met so many wonderful new friends, it felt like we were one big family! I hope we can keep that feeling among us always.

I've been interested in Japanimation all my life, with shows as Kimba, Marine Boy, Speed Racer just to name a few. But it wasn't until I saw Starblazers that I began to seek out others with a similar interest. And that's how I found the BJS. The rest is history....

(Thanks, Marianne, for that fine autobiography. But C'mon! "Donny Osmond"? Oh well, different strokes for different folks.)

THE CONTRIBUTORS FOR THIS ISSUE OF ANDROMEDA WERE:

Motoi Sato (Good cover! May you do another for us soon, OK?)

Todd Margolis (Sure, he's from Marblehead, but he translates tre bone!)

Frank Strom (Look for a one-shot comic featuring some of this great illustrator's work in the near future!)

Marianne Popa (good auto bio)

and Daniel Reed (who lets me borrow his ANIMAGEs and ANIMEDIAS, without which this ~~zine~~ newsletter'd just be a simple sheet with a video schedule on it)

Until next newsletter...

S A Y O N A R A !